

## CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. A system for maintaining data objects distributed on a network, comprising:
- a network controller coupled to the network and operable to enable data communications including the transmission of a data object update message and a corresponding data object update version sequence number ("OVSN"); and
- a receiver coupled to the network and operable to enable data communications with the network controller, the receiver including a memory for storing a data object based on the data object update message and the OVSN and a processor coupled to the memory and operable to include a last received OVSN in a message to the network controller.
- [c2] 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the network controller includes a memory for storing the data object based on the data object update message transmitted to the receiver and a corresponding OVSN.
- [c3] 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the network controller includes a memory for storing the data object based on the data object update message transmitted to a plurality of receivers that includes the receiver and a corresponding OVSN.
- [c4] 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the network controller is further operable to increment the OVSN for each data object update message transmitted to the receiver.
- [c5] 5. The system of claim 1, wherein each data object represents an encoded message.
- [c6] 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the receiver is further operable to include the latest received OVSN in a message to the network controller.
- [c7] 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the receiver is a wireless communication device and the network is a wireless network.
- [c8] 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the network controller is further operable to decode the message from the receiver, where the message references a data object and includes the receiver's OVSN.

[c9] 9. The system of claim 4, wherein the network controller discards messages from the receiver when the receiver's OVSN is less than the last OVSN sent to the receiver.

[c10] 10. The system of claim 9, wherein each data object represents a macro message and has a data object version number.

[c11] 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the receiver is further operable to transmit the data object version number to represent the version of the encoded message in a message to the network controller.

[c12] 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the network controller is further operable to decode the encoded message based on the data object version number received from said receiver.

[c13] 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the network controller is further operable to send data object update messages and corresponding OVSNs to the receiver based on the OVSN included in a message from the receiver.

[c14] 14. A receiver for communicating data signals using a network, comprising:  
a transceiver coupled to the network and operable to receive data communications;  
a memory coupled to the transceiver for storing data objects and data object message version sequence numbers (OVSN) transmitted from a network controller in a data communication to the receiver; and  
a processor coupled to the memory and transceiver and operable to include the last received OVSN in a message to the network controller.

[c15] 15. The mobile communications terminal of claim 14, wherein the processor is further operable to include the largest received OVSN in a message to the network controller.

[c16] 16. The mobile communications terminal of claim 14, wherein each data object represents an encoded message and has a data object number.

[c17] 17. The mobile communications terminal of claim 16, wherein the processor is further operable to use the data object number in a message to the network controller to identify a version of the encoded message.

[c18] 18. A method of maintaining a distributed object system using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a data object update message with a data object update version sequence number (OVSN) from a network controller;

storing data objects based on the data object update message and said OVSN; and

transmitting the last received OVSN in a subsequent message to a network controller.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 18, wherein each of said data objects represent an encoded message and has a data object version number.

[c20] 20. A method of maintaining a distributed object system using a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from a receiver, said message comprising an object version sequence number (OVSN), said OVSN representing a first state of a data object relating to said receiver;

comparing said OVSN with a local OVSN, said local OVSN representing a second state of said data object;

processing said message in a first manner if said OVSN is equal to said local OVSN; and

processing said message in a second manner if said OVSN is not equal to said local OVSN.

[c21] 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said first manner comprises the step of processing said message in accordance with said OVSN.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said message comprises a macro message and the step of processing said message comprises the step of decoding said macro message.

[c23] 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of providing said decoded macro message to a dispatch station.

[c24] 24. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said second manner comprises the step of ignoring said message.

[c25] 25. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said second manner comprises the step of transmitting a data object update message with said local OVSN.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said second manner comprises the step of transmitting all data objects to said receiver.

[c27] 27. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of comparing said OVSN with said local OVSN is performed at a network controller.

[c28] 28. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of comparing said OVSN with said local OVSN is performed at a dispatch station.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said first manner comprises the step of providing said message to a dispatch station.

[c30] 30. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of processing said message in said second manner comprises the step of providing said message to a dispatch station.

[c31] 31. A network controller for maintaining a distributed object system using a network, said network controller comprising:

a database for storing a data object and a corresponding data object version sequence number (OVSN);

a transceiver for sending a data object update message and a corresponding OVSN, said OVSN representing a state of said data object and for receiving a message from a remote receiver, said message comprising an OVSN representing a state of a data object associated with said receiver; and

a processor for comparing said received OVSN with said OVSN stored within said database, and further for processing said message received from said remote receiver in a first manner if said received OVSN matches said OVSN stored within said database and for processing said message received from said remote receiver in a second manner if said received OVSN does not match said OVSN stored within said database.